

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER
10TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HIGHWAYS, TRANSIT AND PIPELINES

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROJECTION FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TOTAL FORCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0510

1034 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE (202) 225-1880
FAX (202) 225-5914

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WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596
TELEPHONE (925) 932-8899
FAX (925) 932-8159

2000 CADENASSO DRIVE
SUITE A
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533
TELEPHONE (707) 438-7792
FAX (707) 438-0523

420 WEST 3RD STREET
ANTIOCH, CA 94509
TELEPHONE (925) 757-7187
FAX (925) 757-7056

Web Address: www.house.gov/tauscher

March 18, 2004

Nadine Hitchcock, Program Director
San Francisco Bay Program
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Hitchcock,

I am writing in support of the Muir Heritage Land Trust's request for \$1,000,000 to go towards the acquisition of the 700 acre Fernandez Ranch in the Franklin Ridge. This acquisition will create one of the largest open space preserves in West Contra Costa County.

The Fernandez Ranch was part of the historic 17,000 acre Rancho Pinole that included the communities of Martinez, Hercules, Pinole and Rodeo in Contra Costa County. This acquisition by the Muir Heritage Trust has historical significance because it will reconnect pieces of the original property.

The Muir Heritage Land Trust has been working to acquire lands and conservation easements within the 10,000-acre Franklin Ridge Wildlife and Trail Corridor since 1988. Their current land holdings include the 242-acre Sky Ranch, the 80-acre Gustin Ranch, the 122-acre Pacheco Marsh wetland, conservation easements on 180 acres within the Stonehurst Subdivision, and the 7 acre Bodfish Preserve in Orinda. The Land Trust will purchase the 158-acre Dutra Ranch in March, 2004.

The Department of Fish and Game supports the Land Trust's work to acquire the Fernandez Ranch and other properties in the Franklin Ridge because of the potential to protect a significant wildlife corridor for the federally listed endangered Alameda Whipsnake. In addition, two miles of Rodeo Creek watershed drain through the Fernandez Ranch, where the federally listed endangered Red-Legged Frog and Salmonid have been found.

The Fernandez Ranch is the northern boundary of the 60,000 acre Briones Hills Agricultural Preserve, which includes the 10,000 acre East Bay Municipal Utilities

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District watershed lands as well as East Bay Regional Park District's 6,000 acre Briones Regional Park. The Bay Area Ridge Trail bisects the Agricultural Preserve, with a proposed route through the Fernandez Ranch and the Greenpark subdivision.

The Briones Agricultural Preserve is an agreement between the County Board of Supervisors and the 14 surrounding municipalities to prevent growth-inducing infrastructure within the Agricultural Preserve Boundaries. By acquiring the Fernandez Ranch, the Muir Heritage Land Trust is ensuring the protection of the Briones Agricultural Preserve and the preservation of one of Contra Costa County's largest remaining ranches. I hope you will give this application very positive consideration and that you keep me updated on its progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen O. Tauscher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellen" and last name "Tauscher" clearly legible.

Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5061
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 445-6083
FAX (916) 445-2527

STANDING COMMITTEE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHAIR

SELECT COMMITTEE
BAY AREA INFRASTRUCTURE
CHAIR

California State Senate

SENATOR
TOM TORLAKSON
SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



DISTRICT OFFICE
2801 CONCORD BOULEVARD
CONCORD, CA 94519
TEL (925) 602-6593
FAX (925) 602-6598

JOINT GOVERNMENT CENTER
420 WEST 3RD STREET
ANTIOCH, CA 94509
TEL (925) 754-1461
FAX (925) 778-5174

WEST COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE
111 CIVIC DRIVE
HERCULES, CA 94547
TEL (800) 859-9900

March 12, 2004

Nadine Hitchcock
Program Director
San Francisco Bay Program
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Hitchcock:

I am writing to urge you to support the Muir Heritage Land Trust's request for \$1,000,000 to acquire the 700-acre Fernandez Ranch in the Franklin Ridge. This acquisition will create one of the largest open space preserves in West Contra Costa County.

The Fernandez Ranch was part of the historic 17,000-acre Rancho Pinole granted to Don Ignacio Martinez in 1823. This grant included the Contra Costa County communities of Martinez, Hercules, Pinole, and Rodeo. The Fernandez Ranch acquisition will reconnect pieces of the original 9,000-acre property Bernardo Fernandez bought from Mrs. Rafaela Martinez Tennant, the daughter of Don Ignacio Martinez, in 1882. The Fernandez Ranch originally included East Bay Municipal Utilities District's 2,000-acre Simas Valley to the south and the proposed 635-acre Greenpark subdivision to the north.

The Muir Heritage Land Trust has been working to acquire lands and conservation easements within the 10,000-acre Franklin Ridge Wildlife and Trail Corridor since 1988. Their current land holdings include the 242-acre Sky Ranch, the 80-acre Gustin Ranch, the 122-acre Pacheco Marsh wetland, conservation easements on 180 acres within the Stonehurst Subdivision, and the 7-acre Bodfish Preserve in Orinda. The Land Trust will purchase the 158-acre Dutra Ranch in March 2004.

The Department of Fish and Game supports the Land Trust's work to acquire the Fernandez Ranch and other properties in the Franklin Ridge because of the potential to protect a significant wildlife corridor for the federally listed endangered Alameda Whipsnake. In addition, two miles of Rodeo Creek watershed drain through the Fernandez Ranch, where the federally listed endangered Red-Legged Frog and Salmonid have been found.

The Fernandez Ranch is the northern boundary of the 60,000-acre Briones Hills Agricultural Preserve, which includes the 10,000-acre East Bay Municipal Utilities District watershed lands as well as East Bay Regional Park District's 6,000-acre Briones Regional Park. The Bay Area



EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

Ms. Nadine Hitchcock
March 12, 2004
Page 2

Ridge Trail bisects the Agricultural Preserve, with a proposed route through the Fernandez Ranch and the Greenpark subdivision.

The Briones Agricultural Preserve is an agreement between the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the 14 surrounding municipalities to prevent growth-inducing infrastructure within the Agricultural Preserve Boundaries. By acquiring the Fernandez Ranch, the Muir Heritage Land Trust is ensuring the protection of the Briones Agricultural Preserve and the preservation of one of Contra Costa County's largest remaining ranches.

I urge your favorable consideration of this excellent grant proposal.

Sincerely,



Tom Torlakson

TT:cdo

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0011
(916) 319-2011
FAX (916) 319-2111

DISTRICT OFFICES
815 ESTUDILLO STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553
(925) 372-7990
FAX (925) 372-0934
2974 SALVIO STREET
CONCORD, CA 94519
(925) 602-1532
FAX (925) 602-1544

Assembly California Legislature



JOSEPH CANCIAMILLA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, ELEVENTH DISTRICT

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WATER MANAGEMENT, STORAGE,
CONSERVATION AND SUPPLY
WETLANDS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE
COMMISSION ON STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES
TO BUDGETING IN CALIFORNIA

March 5, 2004

Ms. Nadine Hitchcock, Program Director
San Francisco Bay Program
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Hitchcock,

I am writing in support of Muir Heritage Land Trust's request for \$1,000,000 to go towards the acquisition of the 700-acre Fernandez Ranch in the Franklin Ridge. This acquisition will create one of the largest open space preserves in West Contra Costa.

The Fernandez Ranch was part of the historic 17,000 acre Rancho Pinole granted to Don Ignacio Martinez in 1823, which included the communities of Martinez, Hercules, Pinole and Rodeo in Contra Costa County. The Fernandez Ranch acquisition will connect back together pieces of the original 9,000-acre property Bernardo Fernandez bought from Mrs. Rafaela Martinez Tennant, the daughter of Don Ignacio Martinez, in 1882. The Fernandez Ranch originally included East Bay Municipal Utilities District's 2,000-acre Simas Valley to the south, the proposed 35-acre Greenpark subdivision to the north.

The Muir Heritage Land Trust has been working to acquire lands and conservation easements within the 10,000-acre Franklin Ridge Wildlife and Trail Corridor since 1988. Their current land holdings include the 242-acre Sky Ranch, the 122-acre Pacheco Marsh wetland, conservation easements on 180 acres within the Stonehurst Subdivision, and the 7 acre Bodfish Preserve in Orinda. The Land Trust will purchase the 158-acre Dutra Ranch in March 2004.

The Department of Fish and Game supports the Land Trust's work to acquire the Fernandez Ranch and other properties in the Franklin Ridge and other properties in the Franklin Ridge because of the potential to protect a significant wildlife corridor for the federally listed endangered Alameda Whipsnake. In addition, two miles of Rodeo Creek watershed drain through the Fernandez Ranch, where the federally listed endangered Red-Legged Frog and Salmonid have been found.

The Fernandez Ranch is the northern boundary of the 60,000 acre Briones Hills Agricultural Preserve, which includes the 10,000 acre East Bay Municipal Utilities District watershed lands as well as East Bay Regional Park District's 6,000 acre Briones Regional. The Bay Area Ridge Trail bisects the Ag Preserve, with a proposed route through the Fernandez Ranch and the Greenpark subdivision.

The Briones Ag Preserve is an agreement between the County Board of Supervisors and the 14 surrounding municipalities to prevent growth-inducing infrastructure within the Ag Preserve Boundaries. By acquiring the Fernandez Ranch, the Muir Heritage Land Trust is ensuring the protection of the Briones Agricultural Preserve and the preservation of one of Contra Costa County's largest remaining ranches.

Thank you very much,

Sincerely,

Assemblymen, Joseph Canciamilla
11th Assembly District
JC:dhb

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

E-mail: assemblymember.canciamilla@assembly.ca.gov



Website: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a11/>

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EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT



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Ted Radke
Ward 7

Pat O'Brien
General Manager

March 9, 2004

Nadine Hitchcock, Program Director
San Francisco Bay Program
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Hitchcock:

I am writing on behalf of the East Bay Regional Park District in support of the Muir Heritage Land Trust's (MHLT) \$1,000,000 grant request to the Coastal Conservancy for the acquisition of the 700-acre Fernandez Ranch in the Franklin Ridge area near Hercules. The property is located next to the State Route 4 Gap Widening Project and will mitigate that project by preserving a two-mile scenic corridor along the highway, also called the John Muir Federal Parkway.

This project is MHLT's first major open space acquisition in West Contra Costa County and is part of what will eventually become that area's largest open space preserve. The Fernandez Ranch acquisition will connect lands held by EBRPD and East Bay Municipal Utility District to create nearly 4,000 contiguous acres of open space and wildlife corridor. This purchase will also protect high-quality habitat for the Alameda whipsnake, California red-legged frog, Salmonid and Western pond turtle. Finally, acquisition of the Fernandez Ranch will provide an important link for the Bay Area Ridge Trail, a regional goal which appears in EBRPD's 1997 Master Plan.

Muir Heritage Land Trust has worked successfully with the Fernandez family to reach agreement on this very significant purchase. I urge you to give favorable consideration to their grant request.

Sincerely,

Pat O'Brien
General Manager

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



2950 Peralta Oaks Court P.O. Box 5381 Oakland, CA 94605-0381
TEL 510 635-0135 FAX 510 569-4319 TDD 510 633-0460 www.ebparks.org

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GAYLE B. UILKEMA

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TWO

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
651 PINE STREET, ROOM 108A
MARTINEZ, CA 94553-1293
(925) 335-1046
FAX (925) 335-1076

email: Gayle@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us
website: www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/department/dis2/



WEST COUNTY OFFICE
CROCKETT COMMUNITY CENTER
850 POMONA AVENUE
CROCKETT, CA 94525
(510) 374-7101
FAX (510) 374-7102

LAMORINDA OFFICE
LAFAYETTE FIRE STATION
3338 MT. DIABLO BLVD.
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549
(925) 646-6067
FAX (925) 646-6068

March 10, 2004

Nadine Hitchcock, Program Director
San Francisco Bay Program
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Hitchcock,

I am writing in support of the Muir Heritage Land Trust's request for \$1,000,000 to go towards the acquisition of the 700 acre Fernandez Ranch in the Franklin Ridge. This acquisition will create one of the largest open space preserves in West Contra Costa County.

The Fernandez Ranch was part of the historic 17,000 acre Rancho Pinole granted to Don Ignacio Martinez in 1823, which included the communities of Martinez, Hercules, Pinole and Rodeo in Contra Costa County. The Fernandez Ranch acquisition will connect back together pieces of the original 9,000-acre property Bernardo Fernandez bought from Mrs. Rafaela Martinez Tennant, the daughter of Don Ignacio Martinez, in 1882. The Fernandez Ranch originally included East Bay Municipal Utilities District's 2,000 acre Simas Valley to the south and the proposed 635-acre Greenpark subdivision to the north.

The Muir Heritage Land Trust has been working to acquire lands and conservation easements within the 10,000-acre Franklin Ridge Wildlife and Trail Corridor since 1988. Their current land holdings include the 242-acre Sky Ranch, the 80-acre Gustin Ranch, the 122-acre Pacheco Marsh wetland, conservation easements on 180 acres within the Stonehurst Subdivision, and the 7 acre Bodfish Preserve in Orinda. The Land Trust will purchase the 158-acre Dutra Ranch in March 2004.

The Department of Fish and Game supports the Land Trust's work to acquire the Fernandez Ranch and other properties in the Franklin Ridge because of the potential to protect a significant wildlife corridor for the federally listed endangered Alameda Whipsnake. In addition, two miles of Rodeo Creek watershed drain through the Fernandez Ranch, where the

ALHAMBRA VALLEY • CANYON • CROCKETT • GIANT • HERCULES • LAFAYETTE • MARTINEZ • MONTALVIN MANOR
MORAGA • ORINDA • PINOLE • PORT COSTA • RODEO • SARANAP • TARA HILLS • TORMEY • WALNUT CREEK (UNINC.)

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

federally listed endangered Red-Legged Frog and Salmonid have been found.

The Fernandez Ranch is the northern boundary of the 60,000 acre Briones Hills Agricultural Preserve, which included the 10,000 acre East Bay Municipal Utilities District watershed lands as East Bay Regional Park District's 6,000 acre Briones Regional Park. The Bay Area Ridge Trail bisects the Ag Preserve, with a proposed route through the Fernandez Ranch and the Greenpark subdivision.

The Briones Ag Preserve is an agreement between the County Board of Supervisors and the 14 surrounding municipalities to prevent growth-inducing infrastructure within the Ag Preserve Boundaries. By acquiring the Fernandez Ranch, the Muir Heritage Land Trust is ensuring the protection of the Briones Agricultural Preserve and the preservation of one of Contra Costa County's largest remaining ranches.

Sincerely,



Gayle B. Uilkema

GBU/lrb

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

Friends of Franklin Canyon *Hercules, California*

March 5, 2004

Nadine Hitchcock, Program Director
San Francisco Bay Program
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Hitchcock,

I am writing on behalf of "Friends of Franklin Canyon" to ask for your support for the Muir Heritage Land Trust's request for \$1,000,000 to go towards the acquisition of the 700 acre Fernandez Ranch in the Franklin Ridge. This acquisition will create one of the largest open space preserves in West Contra Costa County.

The Fernandez Ranch was part of the historic 17,000 acre Rancho Pinole granted to Don Ignacio Martinez in 1823, which included the communities of Martinez, Hercules, Pinole and Rodeo in Contra Costa County. The Fernandez Ranch acquisition will connect back together pieces of the original 9,000 acre property Bernardo Fernandez bought from Mrs. Rafaela Martinez Tennant, the daughter of Don Ignacio Martinez, in 1882. The Fernandez Ranch originally included East Bay Municipal Utilities District's 2,000 acre Simas Valley to the south, the proposed 635 acre GreenPark subdivision to the north.

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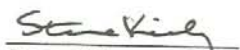
The Department of Fish and Game supports the Land Trust's work to acquire the Fernandez Ranch and other properties in the Franklin Ridge because of the potential to protect a significant wildlife corridor for the federally listed endangered Alameda Whipsnake. In addition, two miles of Rodeo Creek watershed drain through the Fernandez Ranch, where the federally listed endangered Red-Legged Frog and Salmonid have been found.

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Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Steve Kirby
Friends of Franklin Canyon
Post Office Box 5614
Hercules, CA 94547
(510) 799 - 9472

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